THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Government of India vide Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997-2002 dated 26-11-98 has accorded Export House status to the Tourism Industry. Consequently, the Hotels, Travel, Agents, Tour Operators & Tourism Transport Operators shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

(b) The foreign exchange earnings are not computed Statewise. The Estimated Foreign Exchange earn ings for the country duing the last three years are as under:—

1995	Rs. 8,633.30 Crores
1996	Rs. 10,049.95 Crores
1997	Rs. 11,051.43 Crores
1998	Rs 10,156.80 Crores (up-to November 1998).

(c) The Ministry of Tourism is projecting an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals during the next five years.

(d) There have been 18 hotel projects cleared by the Ministry of Tourism during the last three months. Also, during the same period two Foreign Direct Investment cases worth investment USS 860,000 were cleared.

ITDC *attitude* in litigation matters

2015. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC displays a very harsh and un-compromising attitude in matters of litigation with employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that ITDC appeals to Supreme Court as routine and indlicriminately;

(c) whether any guide-lines are followed by ITDC in deciding to appeal to the highest Court;

(d) what steps Government propose to properly supervise ITDC in this area of activity; and

(e) the reasons for taking recourse to litigations to settle seres with employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) No Sir. It is not correct that ITDC adopts harsh and uncompromising attitude in settling the disputes and uses litigation to settle scores with employees. In fact, it has always been the endeavour of the management to settle disputes by mutual discussions and even sort out the Court cases by having out of Court settlement. ITDC considers litigation as a last resort and goes for Appeal against the Award of Lower Courts after careful perusal of the Award (Order.

Notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification **C.S.R.** 407(E), dated the 24th July, 1998 publishing the Border Security Force [Air Wing Non-Gazetted fCombatised) Group 'C Postal] Amendment Rules, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the 'Border Security Force Act, 1968.

Placed in Liberary. See No. LT-1850198],